



Pathways to Progress: Data at a Glance

January 31 2011

Children Served
Click here for [definition](#)

State wards: **6,216**

Non-wards or
"Voluntary": **4,097**

Click here for [detail](#)

Families Served
Click here for [definition](#)

Court families: **4,377**

Non-court or
"Voluntary": **743**

Click here for [detail](#)

Living Arrangements
Click here for [definition](#)

In-home: **5,808**

Out-of-home: **4,207**

Click here for [detail](#)

Out-of-State
Click here for [definition](#)

Children in care
outside of Nebraska:

91

Click here for [detail](#)

Safe in Foster Care
Click here for [definition](#)

Percent of children
safe in foster care:

99.63%

Click here for [detail](#)

Entries & Exits
Click here for [definition](#)

Average entries: **530**

Average exits : **572**

Click here for [detail](#)

Foster Care Reentry
Click here for [definition](#)

Percent of children in
out-of-home care who
reenter care:
4.07%

Click here for [detail](#)

After Care
Click here for [definition](#)

Families receiving after
care services:

1,487

Click for [detail](#)

Click here to read an [introduction](#) to this report or to learn [about the data in this report](#).



Nebraska Child Welfare and Juvenile Services Reform
Safety • Permanency • Well-being

Pathways to Progress: Data at a Glance

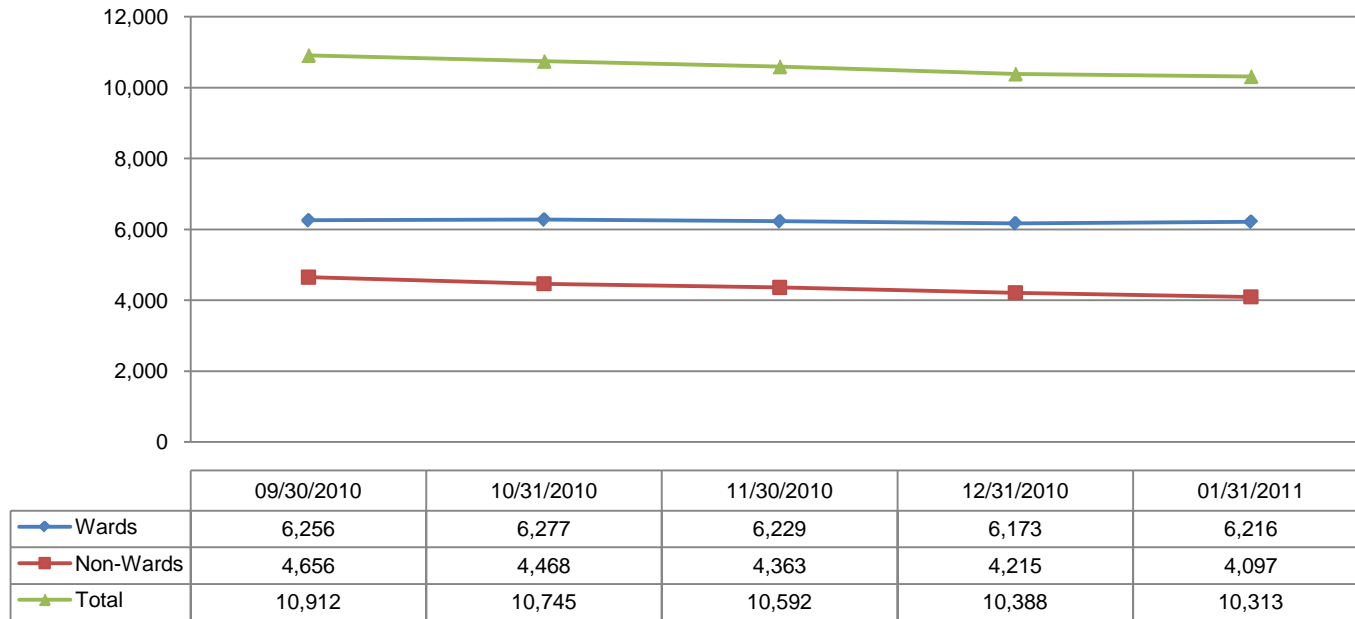
January 31 2011

- Families Matter is a multiyear statewide initiative to reform Nebraska's child welfare and juvenile services and is driven by the desire to serve more children in their own homes and to improve achievement of the federal outcomes of safety, permanency, and well-being. We believe that:
 - Children grow best in their own homes.
 - Children should be reunified or moved to permanency through adoption or guardianship in a timely manner.
 - Families should get services earlier and be offered services after they leave DHHS.
- Our vision is that Nebraska will be a national leader in serving children and families in need.
- “Pathways to Progress Report” represents a picture of some of the key data indicators to assess in determining the progress Families Matter is making to have a positive difference in the lives of children and families being served. Some of these key data indicators were identified with input from stakeholders in a meeting facilitated by the Casey Family Programs Foundation. The data indicators include:
 - Children and families in care, including entry and exit data
 - Living arrangements, including kinship care
 - Children in care outside of Nebraska
 - Children safe in care, reflecting the absence of maltreatment while in foster care
 - Children who reenter foster care
 - Families receiving after care services
- Statewide data is provided as well as data for the Eastern and Southeast Service Areas specific to the lead case management contractors for those areas (KVC and NFC). Similar charts will be presented in the future for the Western, Central, and Northern Service Areas.
- The “Pathways to Progress Report” will be updated quarterly. The first report includes monthly data with three exceptions (‘Safe in Foster Care,’ ‘Foster Care Reentry,’ and ‘After Care’) but future reports will show quarterly data. The report and the data indicators will continue to evolve. They may be modified and updated based on the identification of additional information that the Families Matter stakeholders and/or consumers find helpful or to help provide context to data indicators. Your questions and suggestions are welcome and can be sent to childrenandfamilyservices@nebraska.gov

Notes About this Report

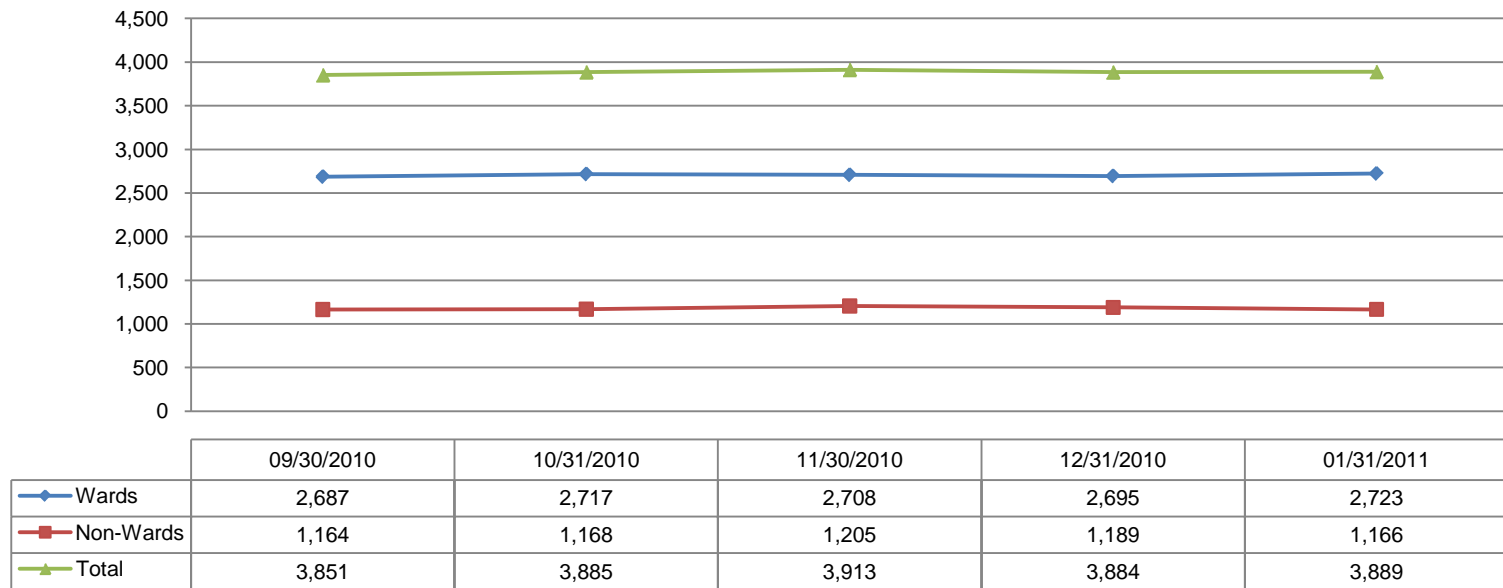
- Statewide data reflects numbers from all five service areas. Charts displaying data from the Central, Northern, and Western Service Areas are currently under development but coming soon.
- Data on children and families served, living arrangements, out-of-state placements, entries and exits, and after care are point-in-time as of January 31, 2011.
- Safe in foster care is based on quarterly averages and display the average for October 2010 through December 2010.
- Reentry into foster care displays total reentries into foster care from April 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

Children Served Statewide (Wards and Non-wards)



The total number of children served statewide has slowly decreased over the past few months. The data will continually be monitored to identify any issues or trends that best describe any changes to the population being served.

Children Served in the Eastern Service Area (Wards and Non-wards)



Children served in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC. The following slides provide detail by agency.

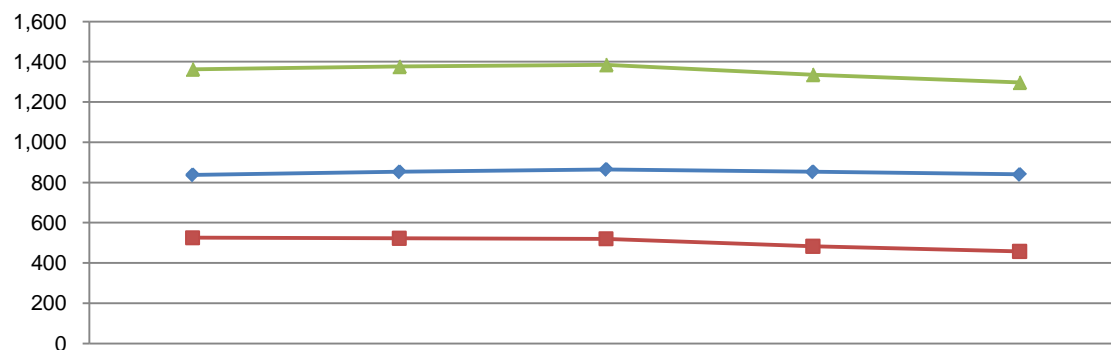
The number of children in the Eastern Service Area has increased in the last five months, with KVC seeing the largest increase in children and NFC serving a more consistent number of children across the same time period. KVC serves the most children in the area. See the following slides for details.

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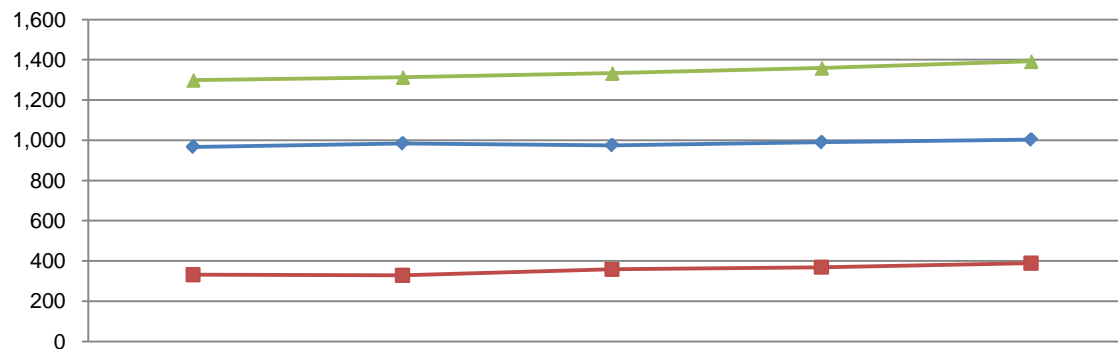
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Children Served in the Eastern Service Area by DHHS (Wards and Non-wards)



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011
Wards	838	853	865	853	840
Non-Wards	525	523	520	483	457
Total	1,363	1,376	1,385	1,336	1,297

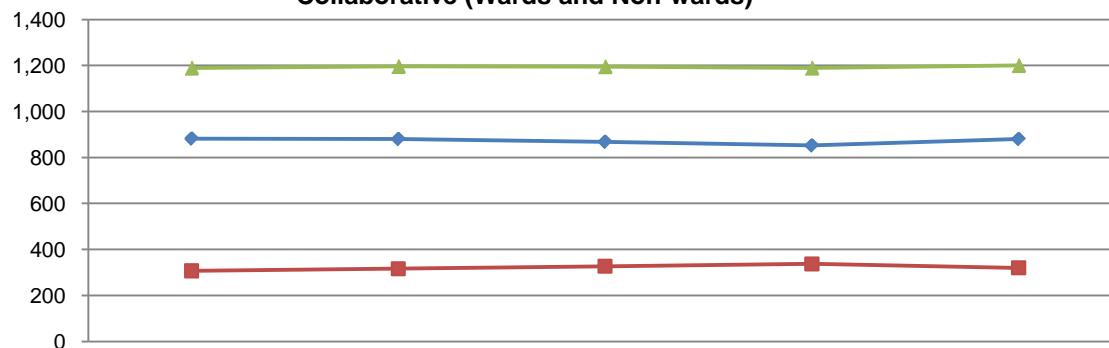
Children Served in the Eastern Service Area by KVC (Wards and Non-wards)



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011
Wards	967	984	975	990	1,003
Non-Wards	332	329	358	369	389
Total	1,299	1,313	1,333	1,359	1,392

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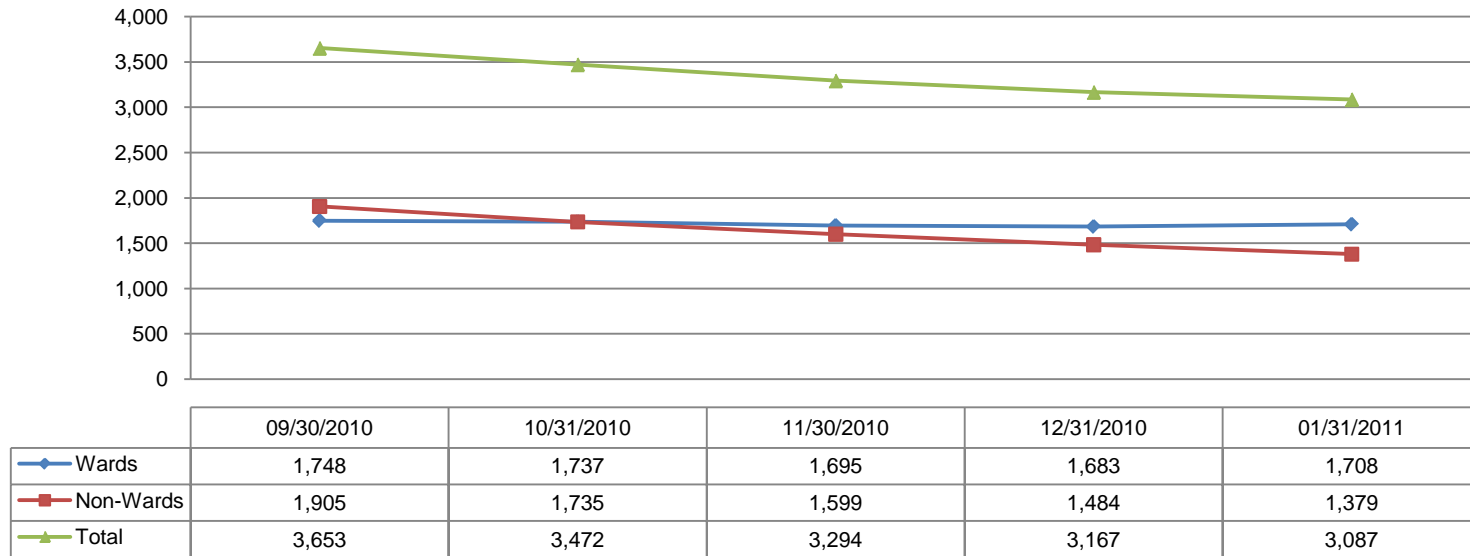
Children Served in the Eastern Service Area by Nebraska Families Collaborative (Wards and Non-wards)



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011
Wards	882	880	868	852	880
Non-Wards	307	316	327	337	320
Total	1,189	1,196	1,195	1,189	1,200

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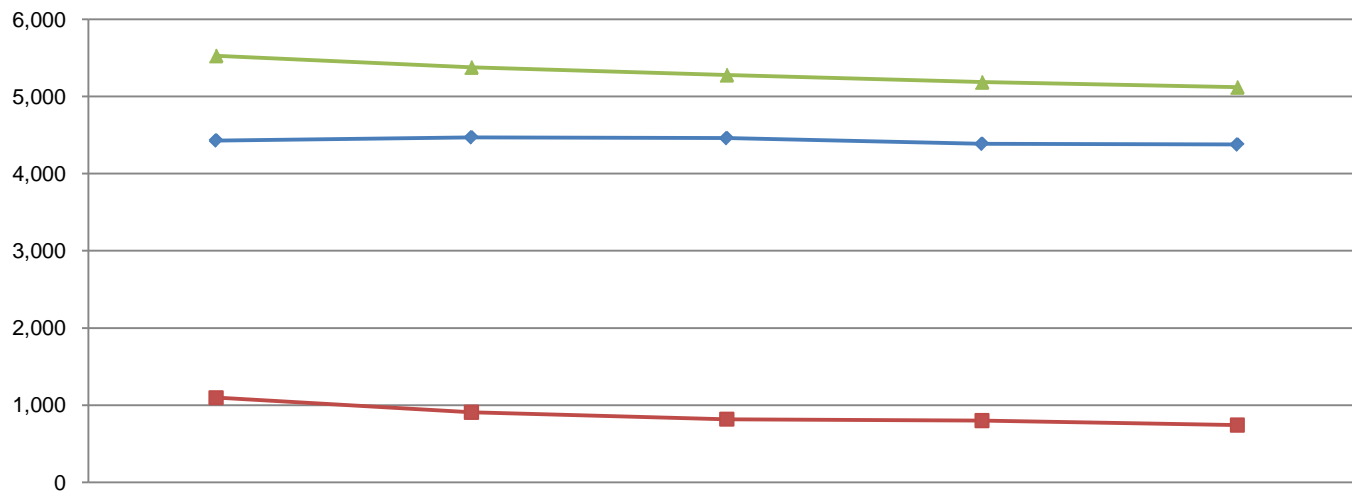
Children Served in the Southeast Service Area (Wards and Non-wards)



Children served in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC .

The number of children served in the Southeast Service Area has decreased in the last five months. KVC is the only contractor serving children in this area.

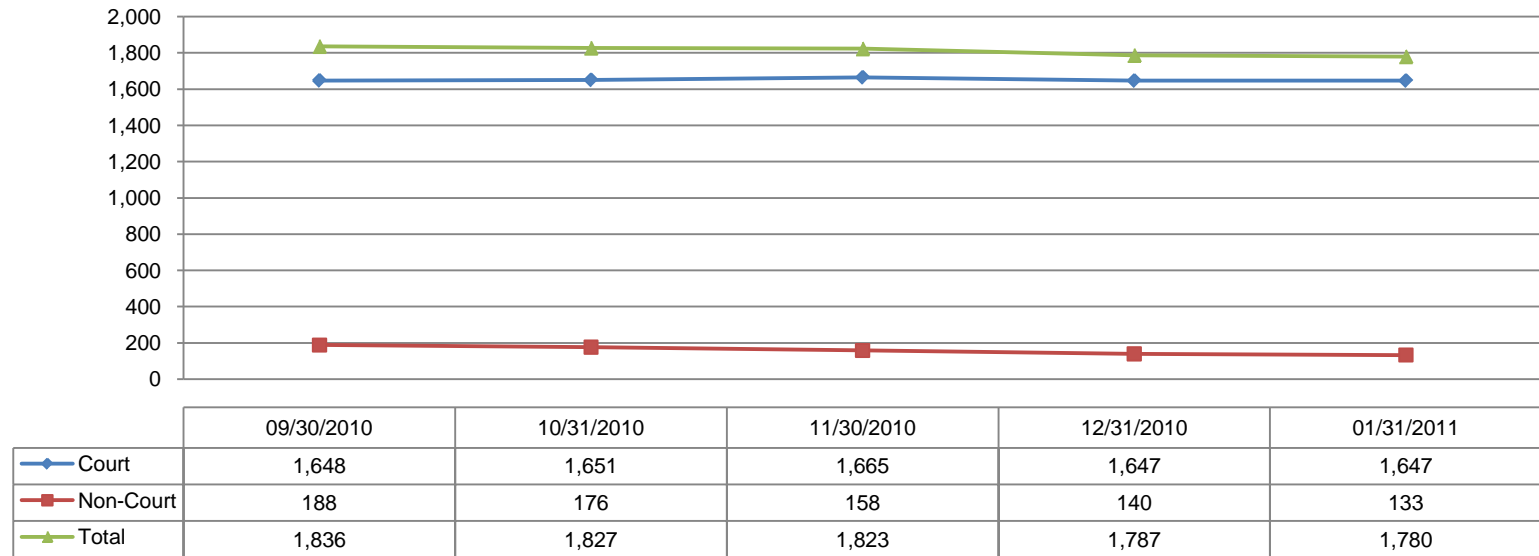
Families Served Statewide (Court and Non-Court)



Similar to the total number of children served statewide, the total number of families served statewide has slowly decreased over the past few months.

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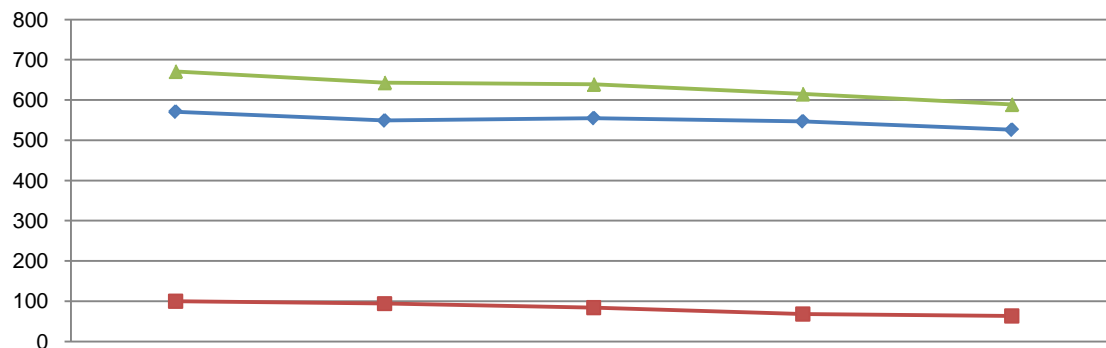
Families Served in the Eastern Service Area (Court and Non-Court)



Children served in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC. The following slides provide detail by agency.

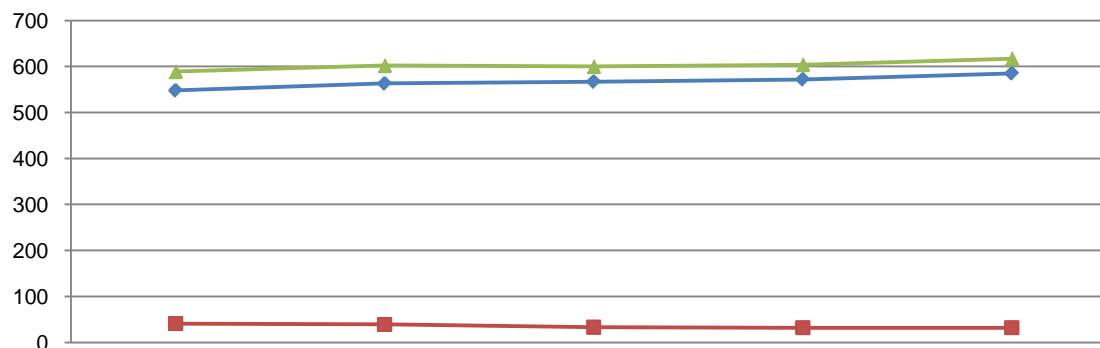
The number of families served in the Eastern Service Area has decreased in the last five months. KVC experienced a slight increase in families and Nebraska Families Collaborative served a more consistent number of families across the same time period. KVC serves the most families in the area. See the following slides for details.

Families Served in the Eastern Service Area by DHHS (Court and Non-Court)



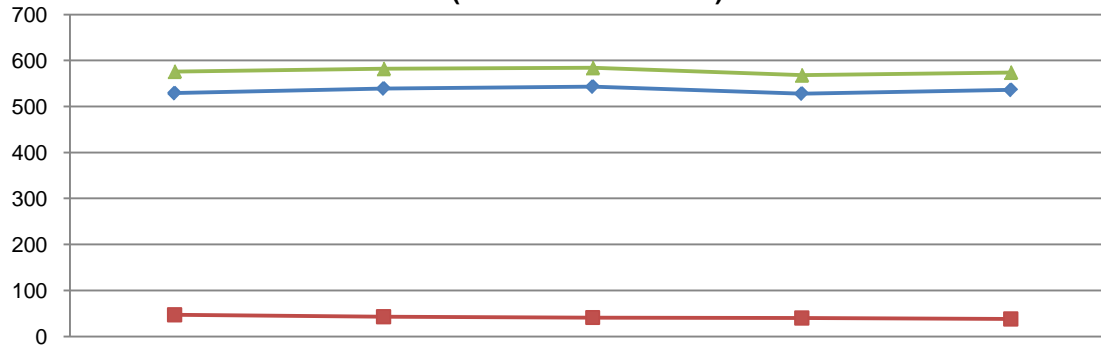
	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011
— Court	571	549	555	547	526
— Non-Court	100	94	84	68	63
— Total	671	643	639	615	589

Families Served in the Eastern Service Area by KVC (Court and Non-Court)



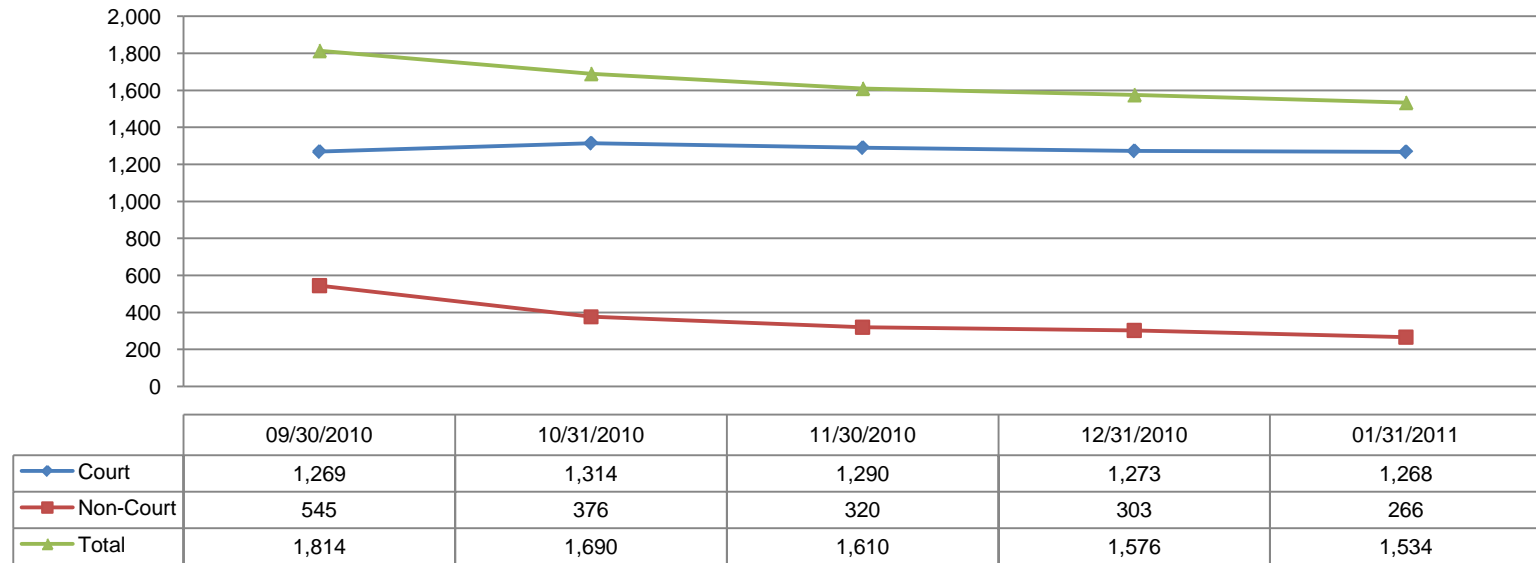
	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011
— Court	548	563	567	572	585
— Non-Court	41	39	33	32	32
— Total	589	602	600	604	617

Families Served in the Eastern Service Area by Nebraska Families Collaborative (Court and Non-Court)



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011
—◆— Court	529	539	543	528	536
—■— Non-Court	47	43	41	40	38
—▲— Total	576	582	584	568	574

Families Served in the Southeast Service Area (Court and Non-Court)



Children served in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC .

The number of families served in the Southeast Service Area has decreased in the last five months. KVC is the only contractor serving families in this area.

Living Arrangement

- Nebraska has one of the nation's highest rates of children in out-of-home care. Children grow up best in their own homes; therefore, Nebraska is focusing on ways to keep children in their own homes whenever possible. The following data displays the total number youth being served by living arrangement. Historically, DHHS had about 70% of state wards in out-of-home care and 30% remaining in their homes with the goal to 'flip the pyramid.'
- After careful assessment with the Families Matter contractors, the Department determined the need to also include children who are not involved in the system as state wards, but that are involved in the system and receiving non-court involved services. Therefore, the data reflect the total number of children being served regardless of court involvement and by living arrangement. The goal is to continue to pursue serving more children in their own homes whenever it can be safely accomplished.
- The number of children entering and exiting the system will impact the percentages of children reported below. The goal is to keep children safely at home or to return them to home as soon as child safety is ensured.

Living Arrangement

- To provide some context we thought it would be helpful for you to know what the data showed historically in addition to data from the last five months. Please note that the average percent of children by placement for State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2009, SFY 2010, and SFY 2011 to date are for wards only; whereas the charts display data for all youth (wards and non-wards).

Time Period	In Home	Out of Home
State Fiscal Year* 2009	28.72%	71.28%
State Fiscal Year* 2010	23.99%	76.01%
State Fiscal Year* 2011	29.00%	71.00%

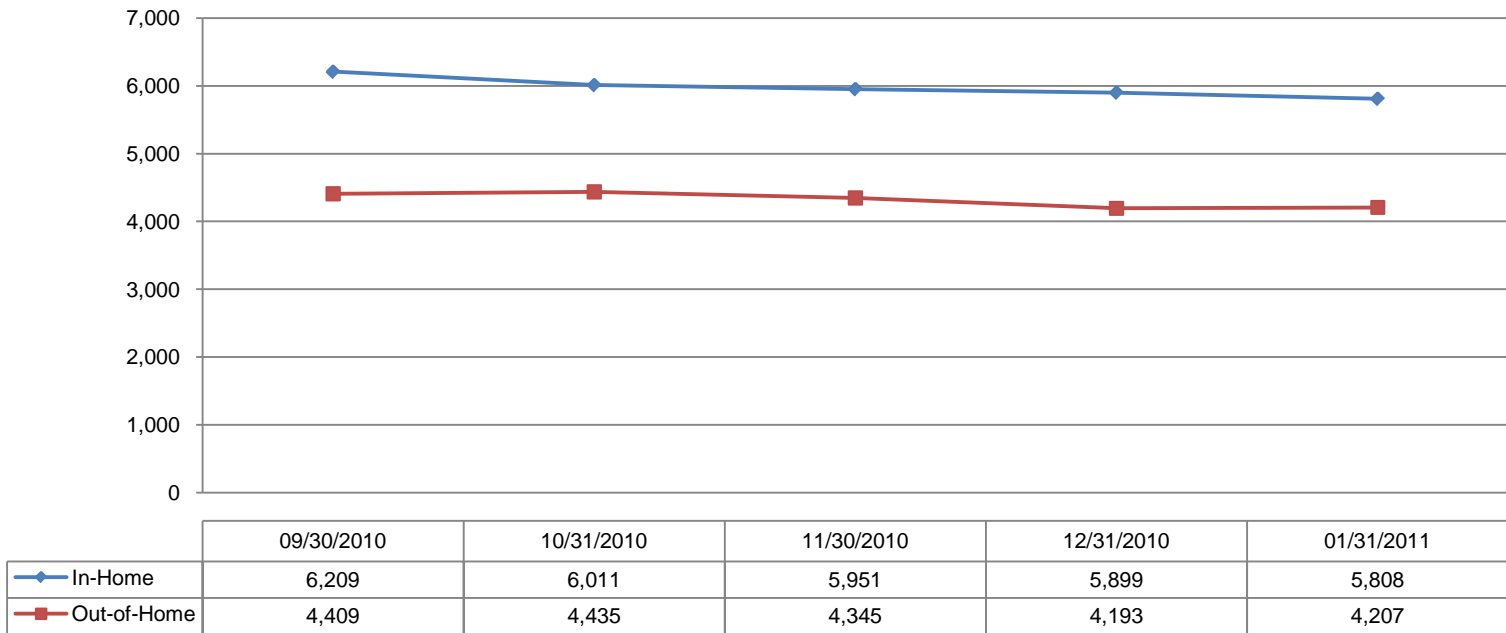
State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2009 is July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009; SFY 2010 is July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010; SFY 2011 is July 1, 2010 to the current date.

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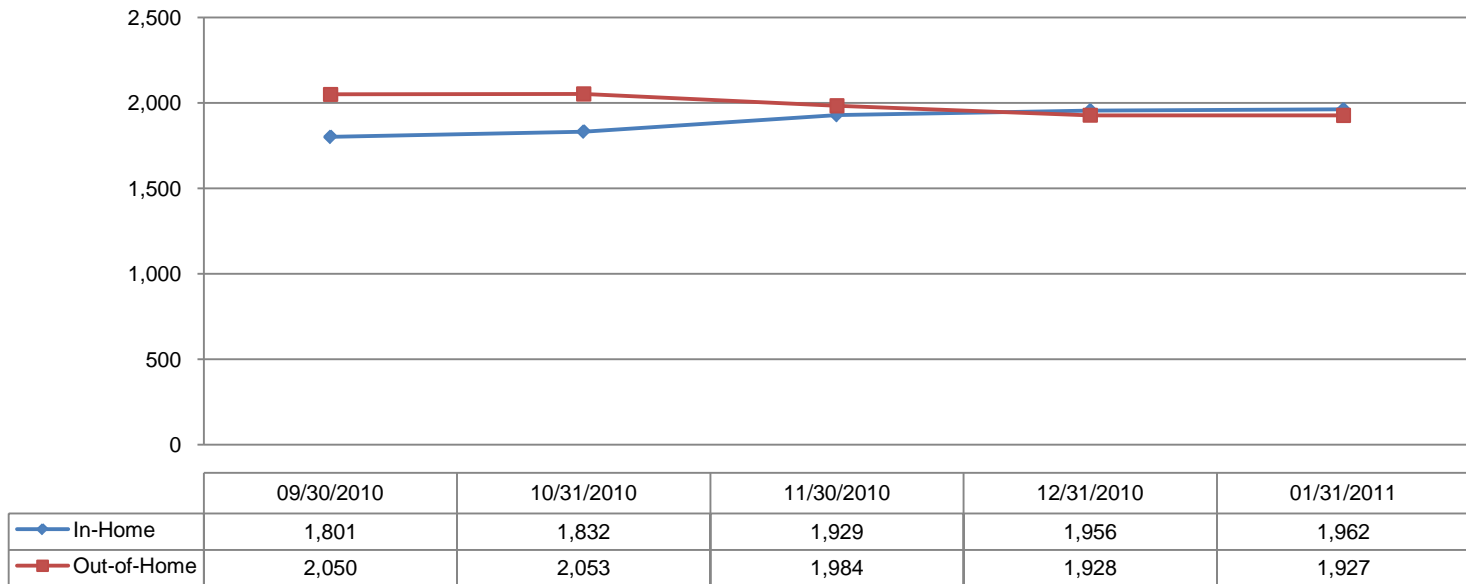
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Living Arrangements Statewide



The data shows a decrease in the in-home population and an increase in the out-of-home population. This will continue to be monitored as the goal for the Department is to serve as many children as possible safely in their own homes.

Living Arrangements Eastern Service Area

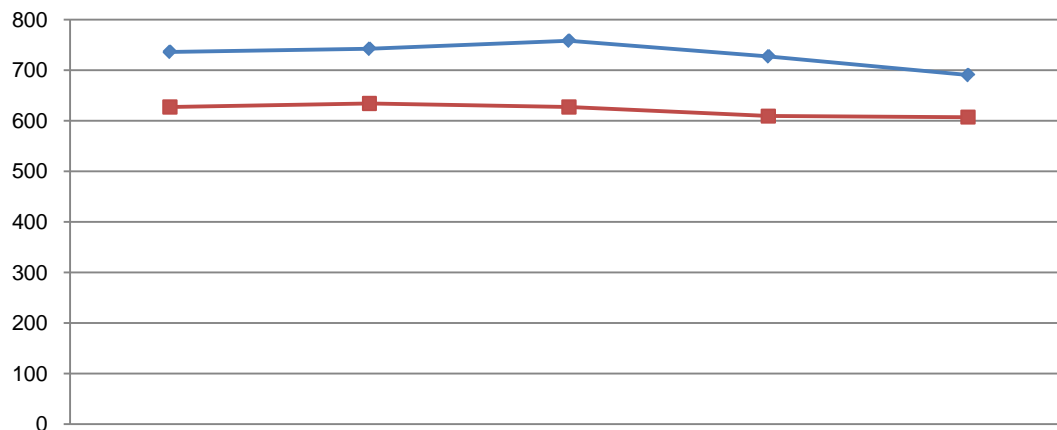


Children served in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC. The following slides provide detail by agency.

The number of all youth in out-of-home placements decreased and the number of all youth remaining in the home increased over the last five months. This trend exists in the cases assigned to both contractors as well as those case being managed by DHHS. See the following slides for details.

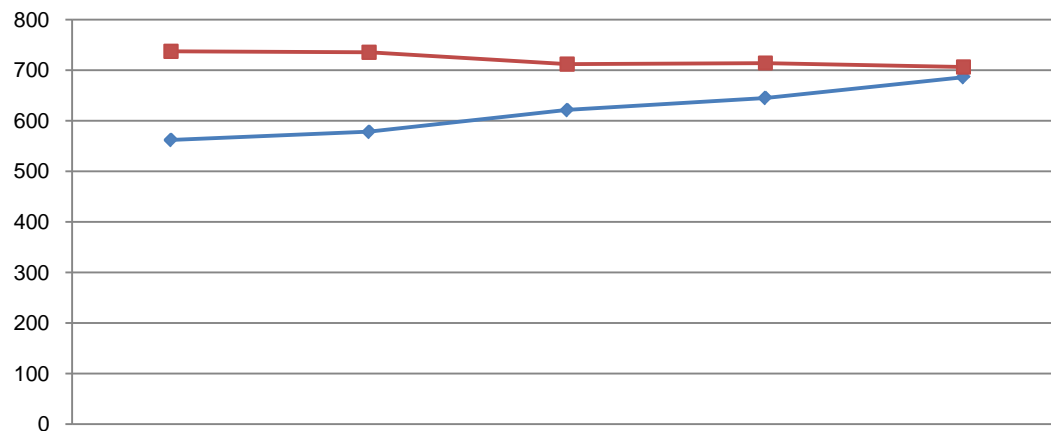
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Living Arrangements DHHS-ESA



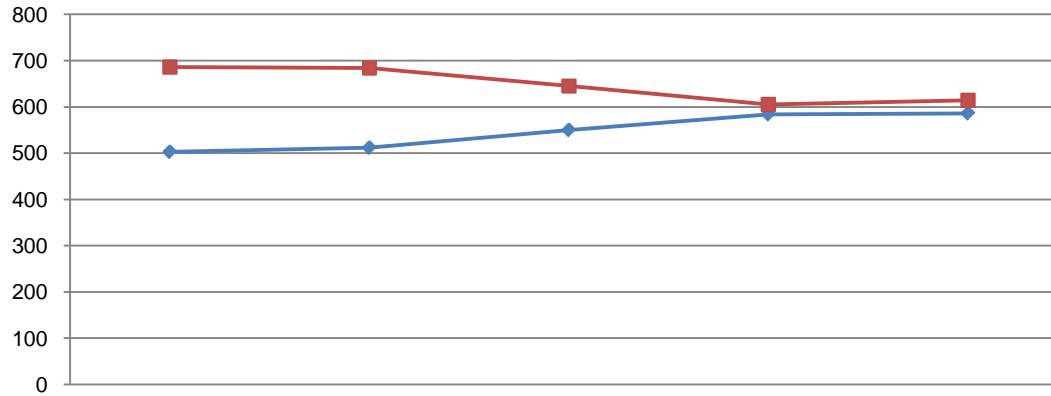
	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011
In-Home	736	742	758	727	690
Out-of-Home	627	634	627	609	607

Living Arrangements KVC-ESA



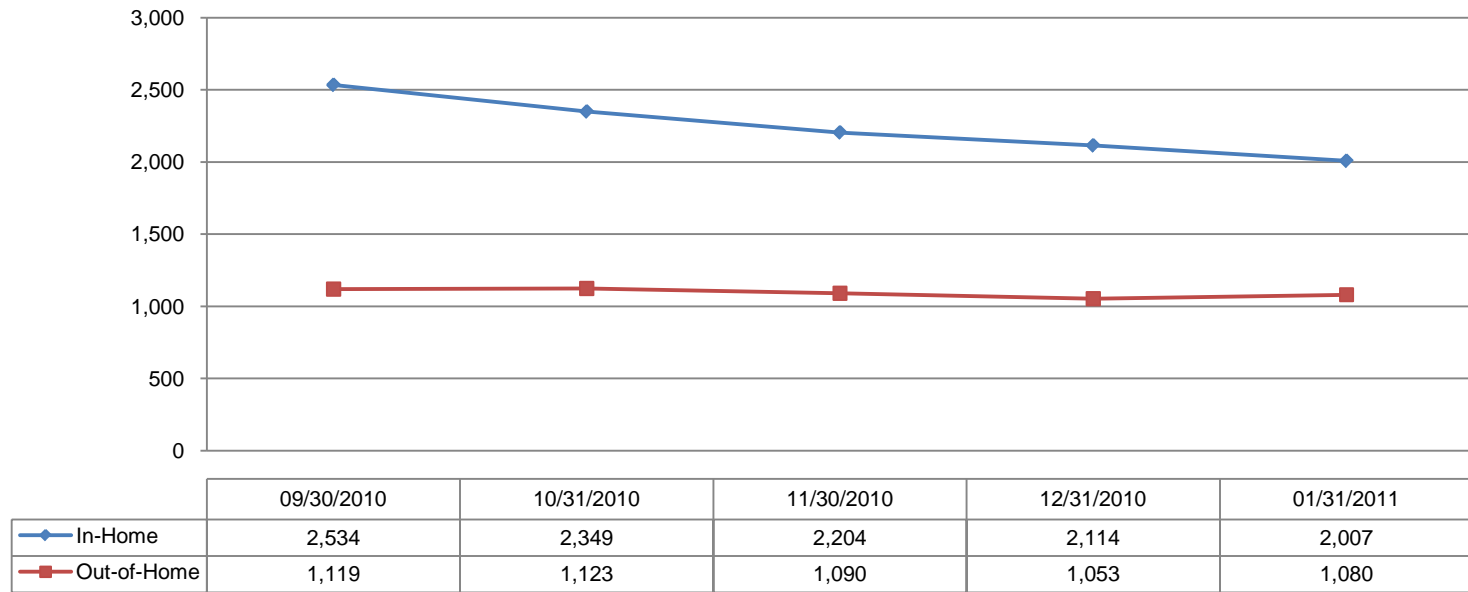
	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011
In-Home	562	578	621	645	686
Out-of-Home	737	735	712	714	706

Living Arrangements Nebraska Families Collaborative-ESA



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011
◆ In-Home	503	512	550	584	586
■ Out-of-Home	686	684	645	605	614

Living Arrangements Southeast Service Area



Children served in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC .

The Southeast Service Area experienced an increase in the percent of all youth in out-of-home placements and a decrease in the percent of all youth remaining in the home over the last five months.

Family-Like Placements

- There are some situations in which there is not a way to keep the child safe in their own home. In these cases the goal is to have a child reside in a family-like placement, such as with a relative, someone known to them, or in a licensed foster home. The last option is for a child to reside in a group home or congregate care setting. There are some youth that need to receive inpatient mental health or substance abuse treatment which is in a congregate care setting, but upon discharge the hope is that they could either return home or be placed in a family-like placement.
- The following slides display progress in keeping youth in family-like placements. Family-like placements are broken out into placements in which the child knows or is related to the caregiver (i.e., kinship) and placements in which the child does not know or is not related to the caregiver (i.e., non-kinship).
- Family-like placements comprise the majority of placements in both the Eastern and Southeast Service Areas. A slight majority of these placements are non-kinship placements, and more so in the Southeast Service Area. These patterns have remained fairly consistent from month to month.

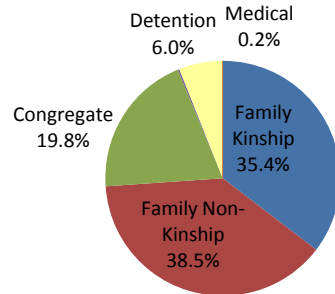
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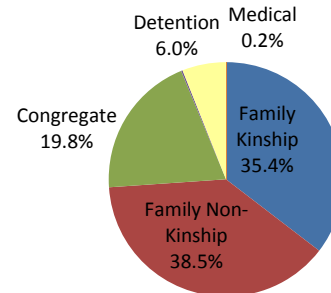
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Eastern Service Area

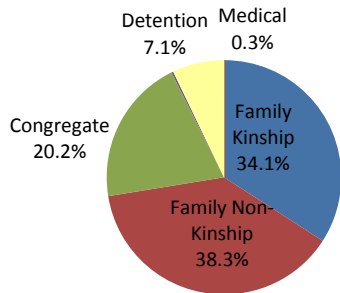
Placements
Total Service Area Sept. 2010



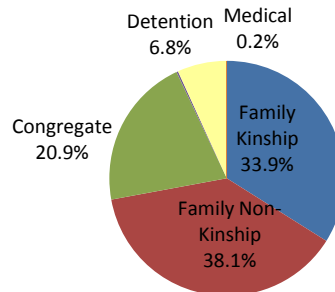
Placements
Total Service Area Oct. 2010



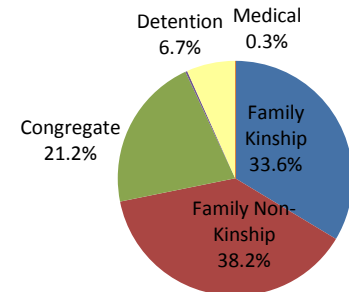
Placements
Total Service Area Nov. 2010



Placements
Total Service Area Dec. 2010



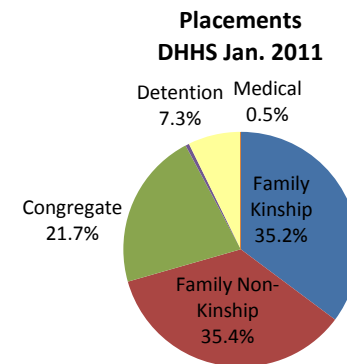
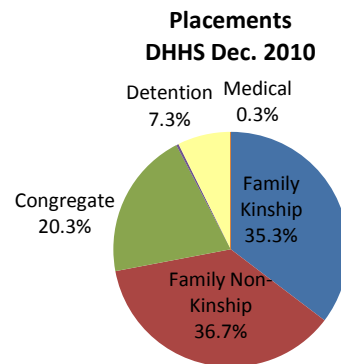
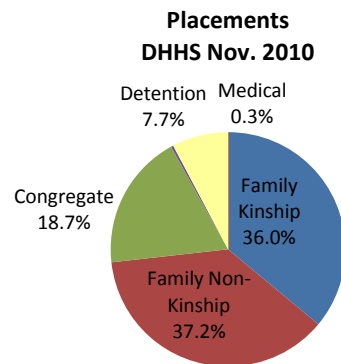
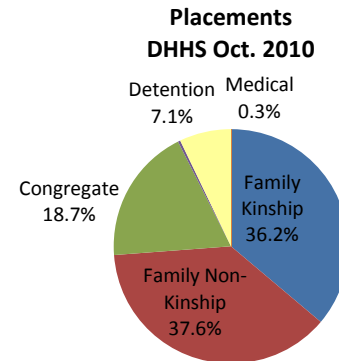
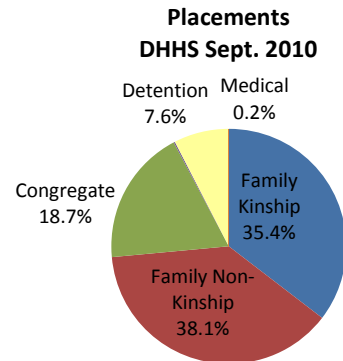
Placements
Total Service Area Jan. 2011



Children served in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC. The following slides provide detail by agency.

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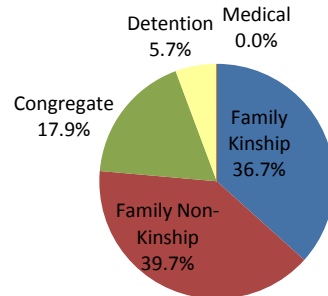
Eastern Service Area (DHHS)



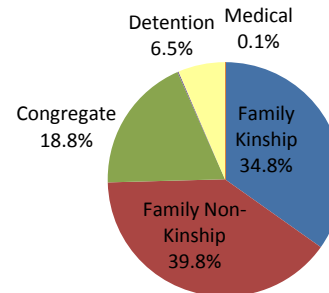
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Eastern Service Area (KVC)

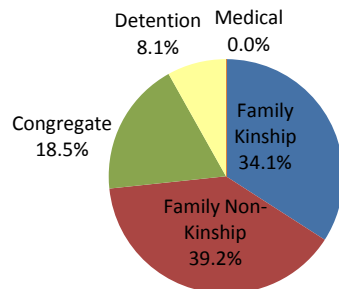
**Placements
KVC-ESA Sept. 2010**



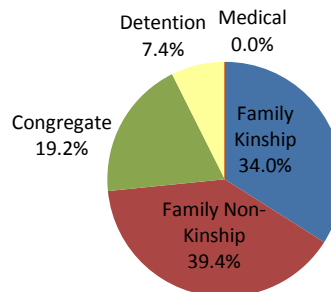
**Placements
KVC-ESA Oct. 2010**



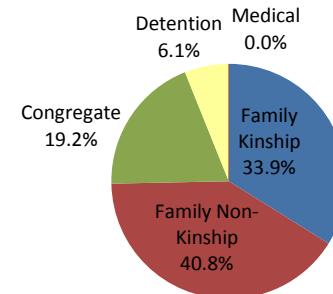
**Placements
KVC-ESA Nov. 2010**



**Placements
KVC-ESA Dec. 2010**



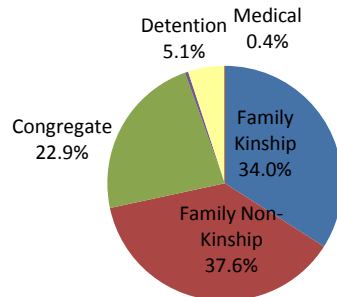
**Placements
KVC-ESA Jan. 2011**



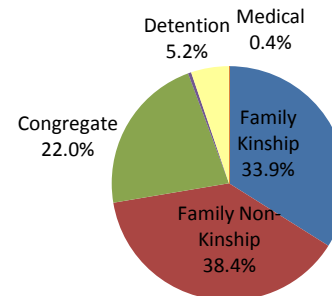
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Eastern Service Area (NFC)

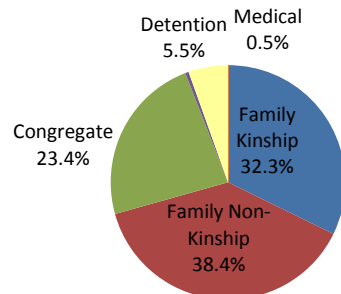
Placements
Nebraska Families Collaborative Sept. 2010



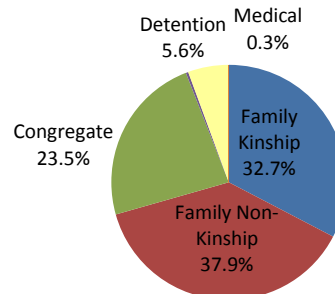
Placements
Nebraska Families Collaborative Oct. 2010



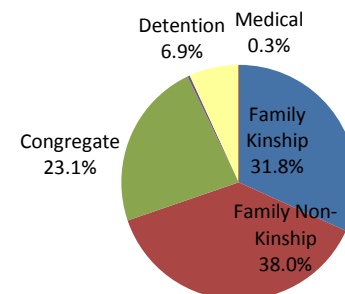
Placements
Nebraska Families Collaborative Nov. 2010



Placements
Nebraska Families Collaborative Dec. 2010



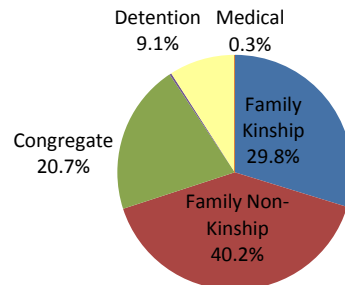
Placements
Nebraska Families Collaborative Jan. 2011



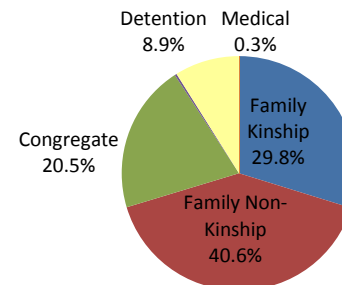
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Southeast Service Area (KVC)

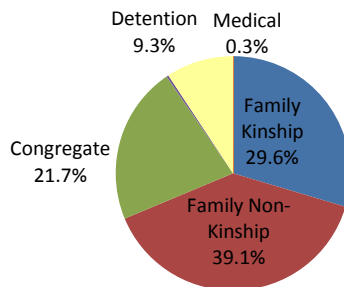
**Placements
KVC-SESA Sept. 2010**



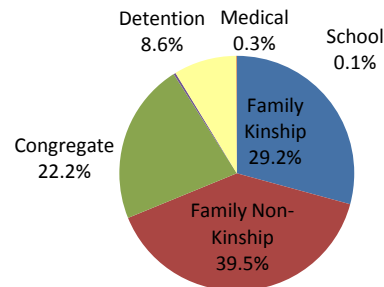
**Placements
KVC-SESA Oct. 2010**



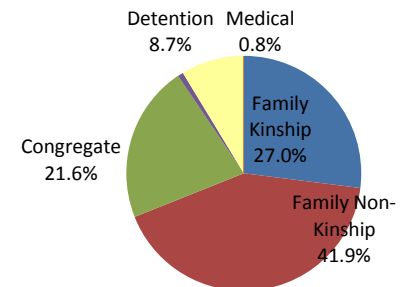
**Placements
KVC-SESA Nov. 2010**



**Placements
KVC-SESA Dec. 2010**



**Placements
KVC-SESA Jan. 2011**



Children served in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC.

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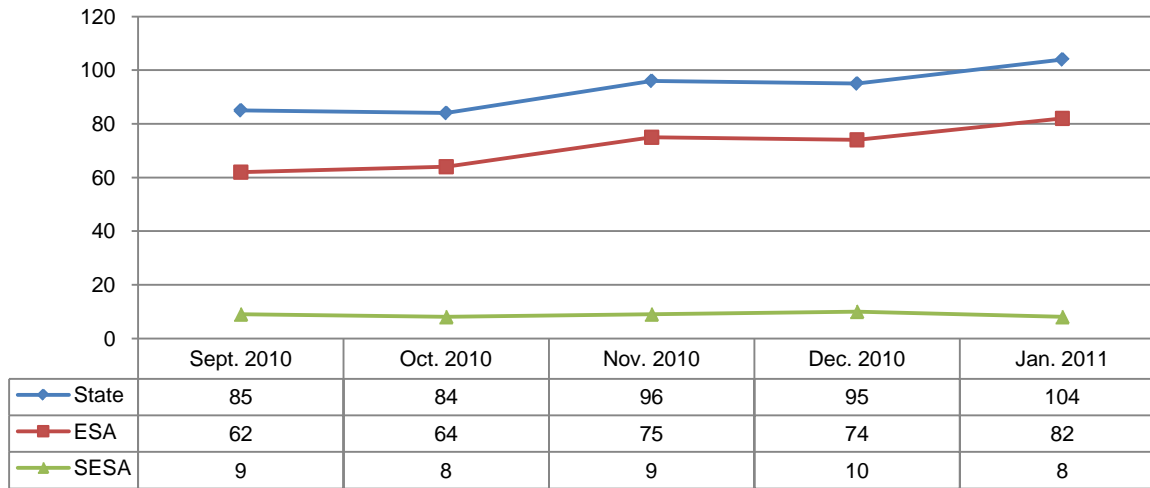
Out-of-State Placements

- Children reside out of state when no placement that can meet the child's needs can be located or is available in Nebraska. These numbers are monitored closely.
- Children residing with non-custodial parents, relatives, or in a foster home out of state are not included in these numbers. The report only includes youth in out-of-state congregate care settings.

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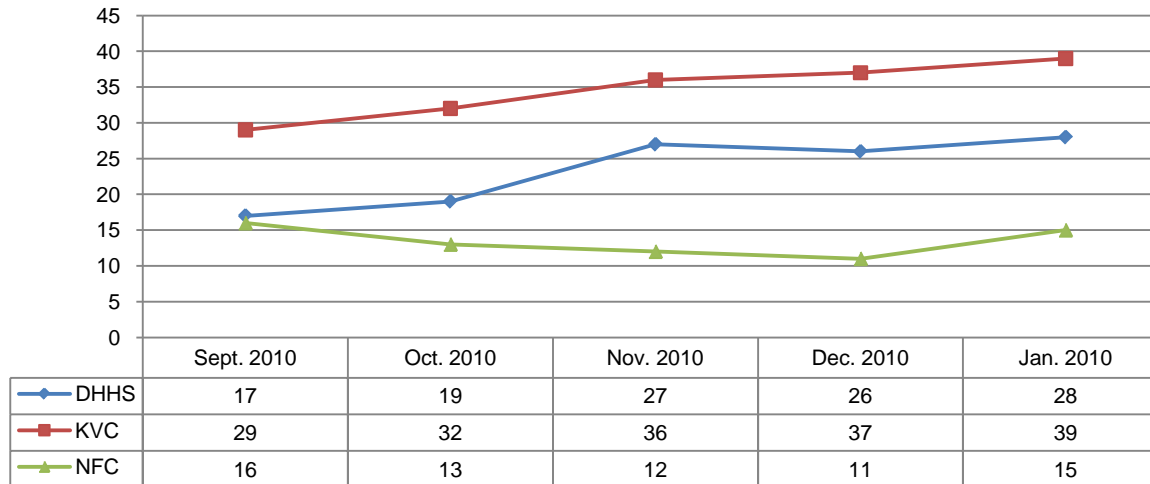
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Out of State Placements by Service Area



Children in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC. The chart below displays detail by agency.
Children in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC.

Eastern Service Area Out of State Placements by Agency



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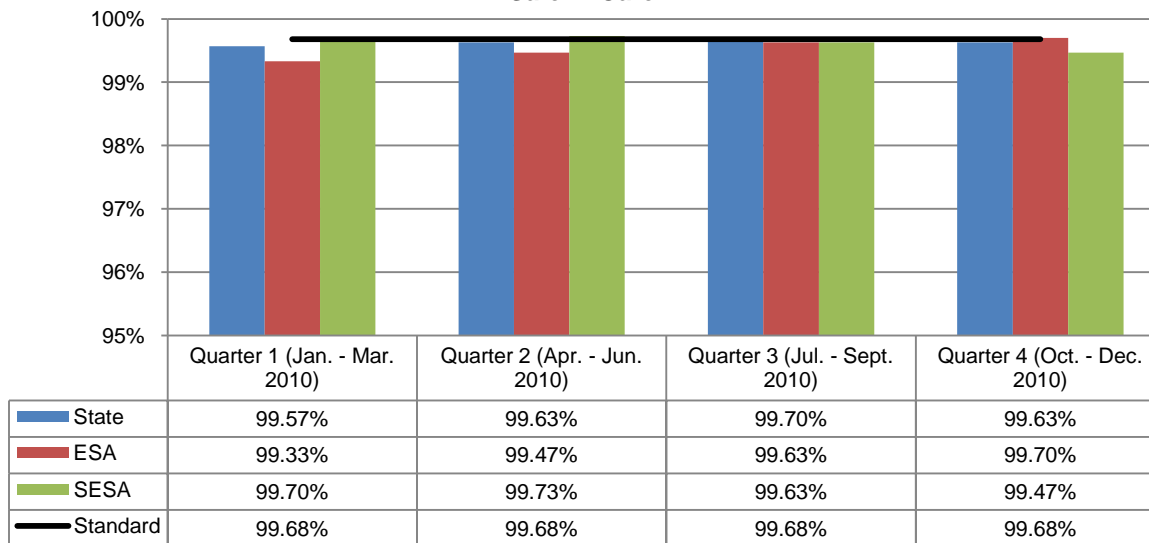
Safe in Foster Care

- Child safety, while in foster care, is a paramount concern to DHHS. DHHS uses the federal measure of Absence of Maltreatment in Foster Care to monitor this issue. DHHS reports on the number of youth in foster care who were not the victims of abuse or neglect by their foster parents or other substitute caregivers. The Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has prescribed and has placed the National Standard at 99.68%. A high percentage for this measure is positive.
- The safety of children in foster care has increased statewide in the last calendar year, as displayed in the chart on the following slide. The Eastern Service Area experienced an increase in the safety of children in foster care and the Southeast Service Area has experienced a slight decrease in the safety of children in foster care.

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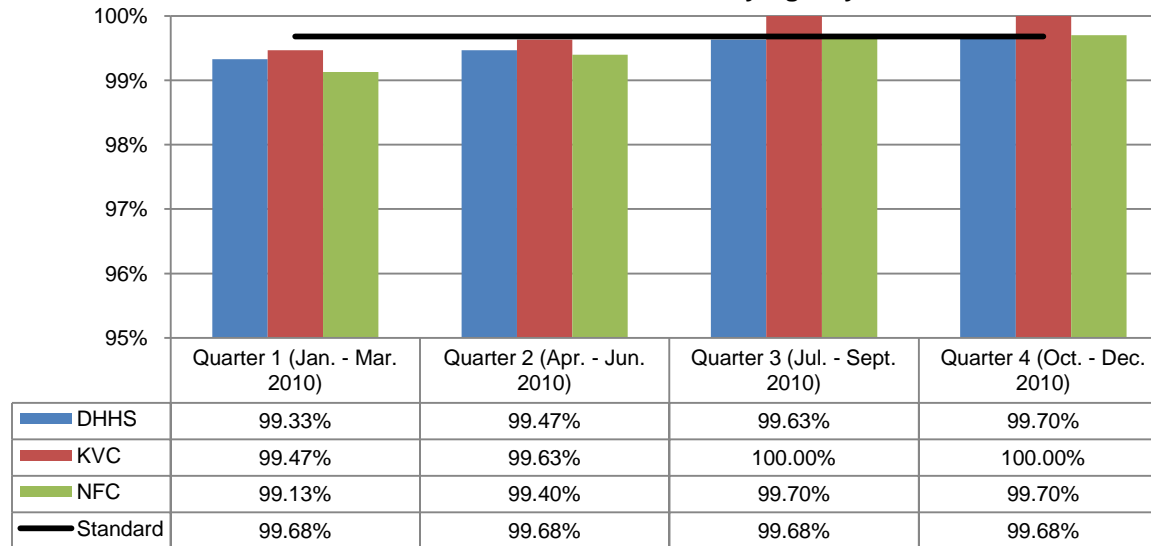
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Safe in Care



Children in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC. The chart below displays detail by agency. Children in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC.

Eastern Service Area Safe in Care by Agency



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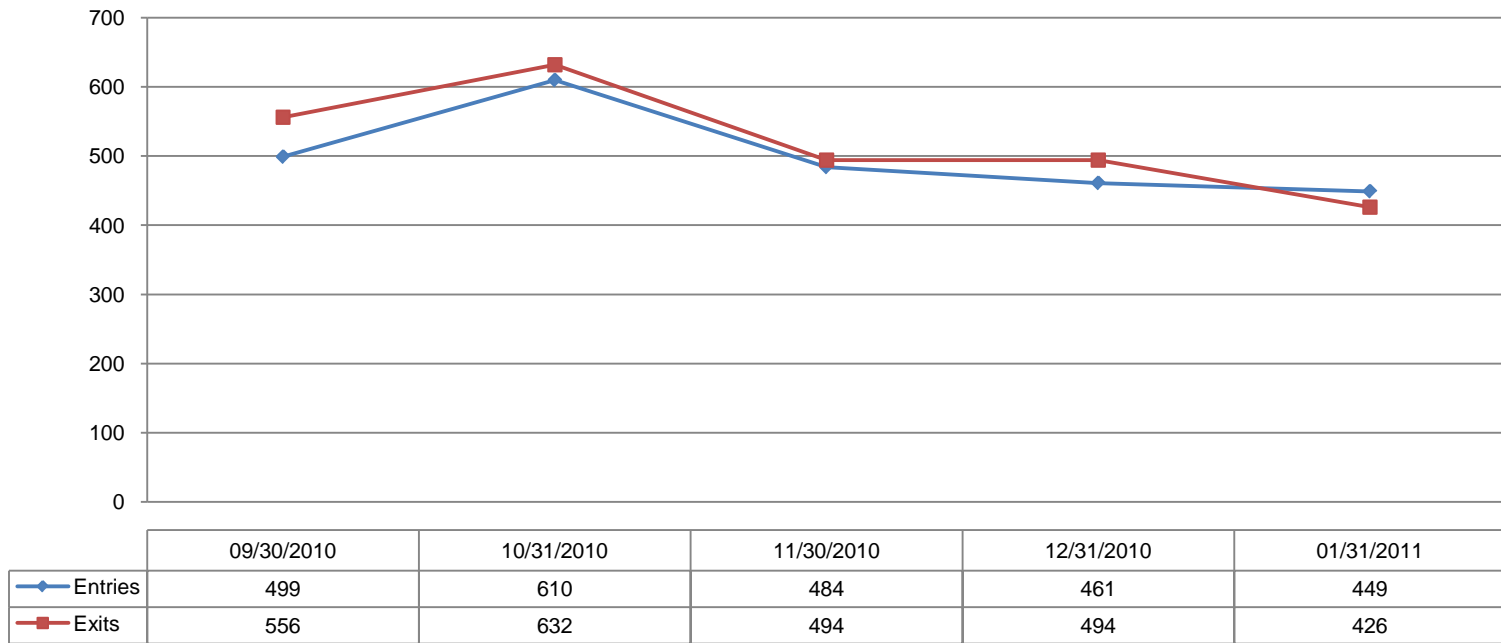
Entries & Exits

- Entries and exits of children within the system is monitored. The goal is to provide the right service at the right time for the right length of time in order to minimize disruption to the family and achieve family and community safety. We know that Nebraska has one of the highest rates of children involved in the child welfare and juvenile justice system and is also one of the states with the highest rate of children in out-of-home care. A goal of Families Matter is specifically geared to evaluate entry and exit into the DHHS system of care.
- There are two primary entry points into the system: 1) DHHS determines that one or more children in a family are unsafe and offers non-court involved services; 2) A court of competent jurisdiction determines that a family involved with child abuse or neglect or juvenile delinquency needs court and DHHS involvement.

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Entries & Exits Statewide



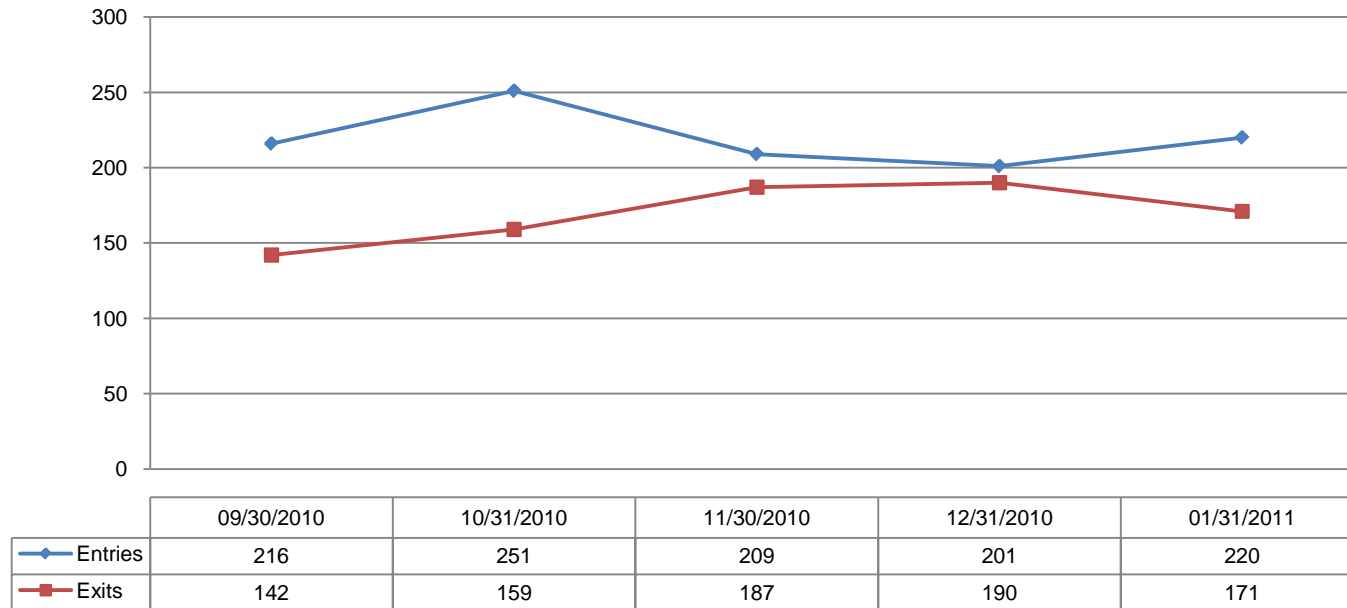
The total number of children entering and exiting care increased in October but then declined steadily from November through January.

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Entries & Exits Eastern Service Area



Children served in the Eastern Service Area are served by DHHS and two contractors – KVC and NFC. The following slides provide detail by agency.

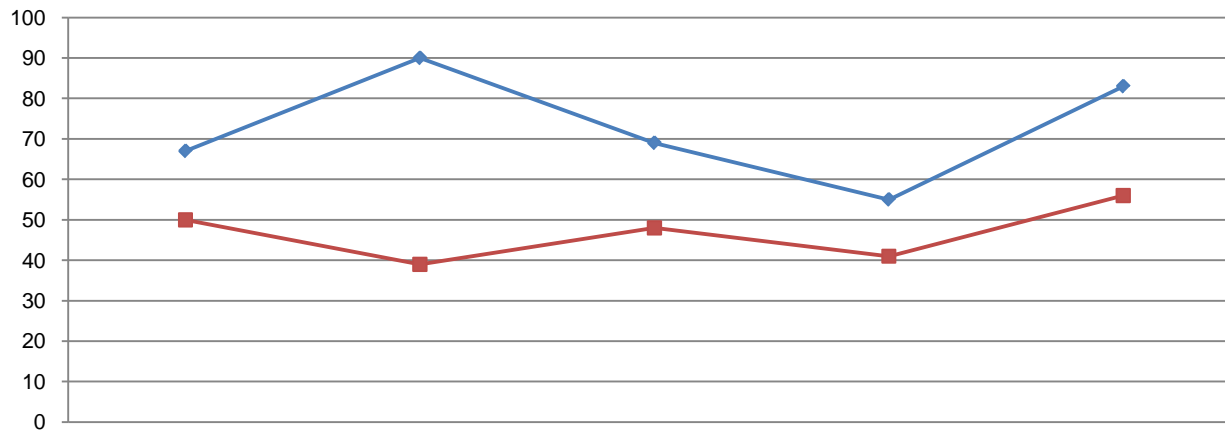
The total number of children entering care in the Eastern Service Area has fluctuated in the last five months, with numbers peaking in October as they did statewide. The number of exits increased from September through December and then dipped again in January.

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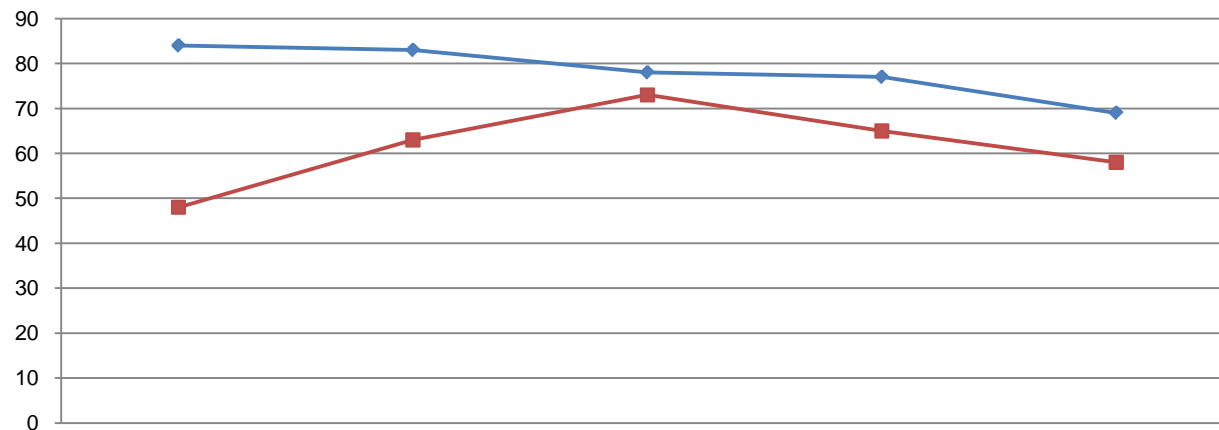
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Entries & Exits DHHS - ESA



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011
Entries	67	90	69	55	83
Exits	50	39	48	41	56

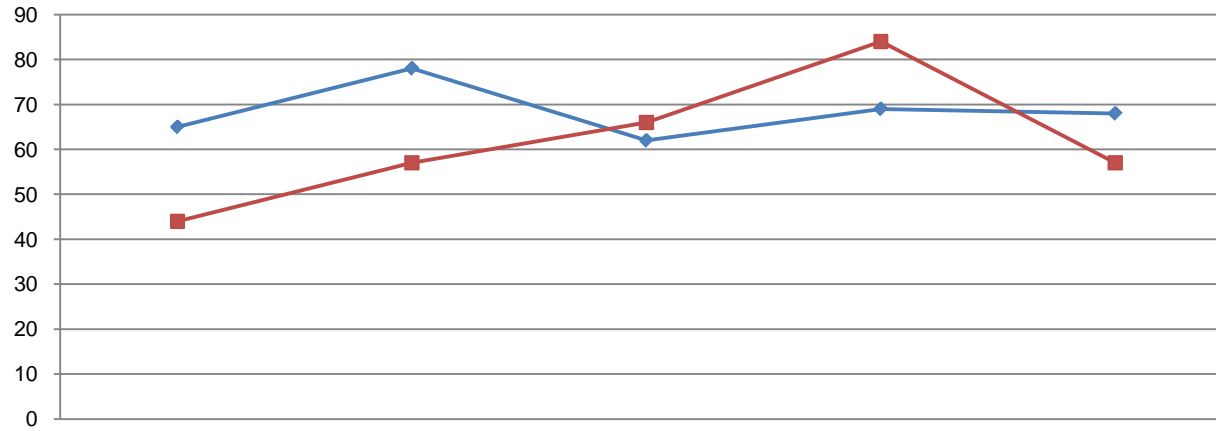
Entries & Exits KVC - ESA



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011
Entries	84	83	78	77	69
Exits	48	63	73	65	58

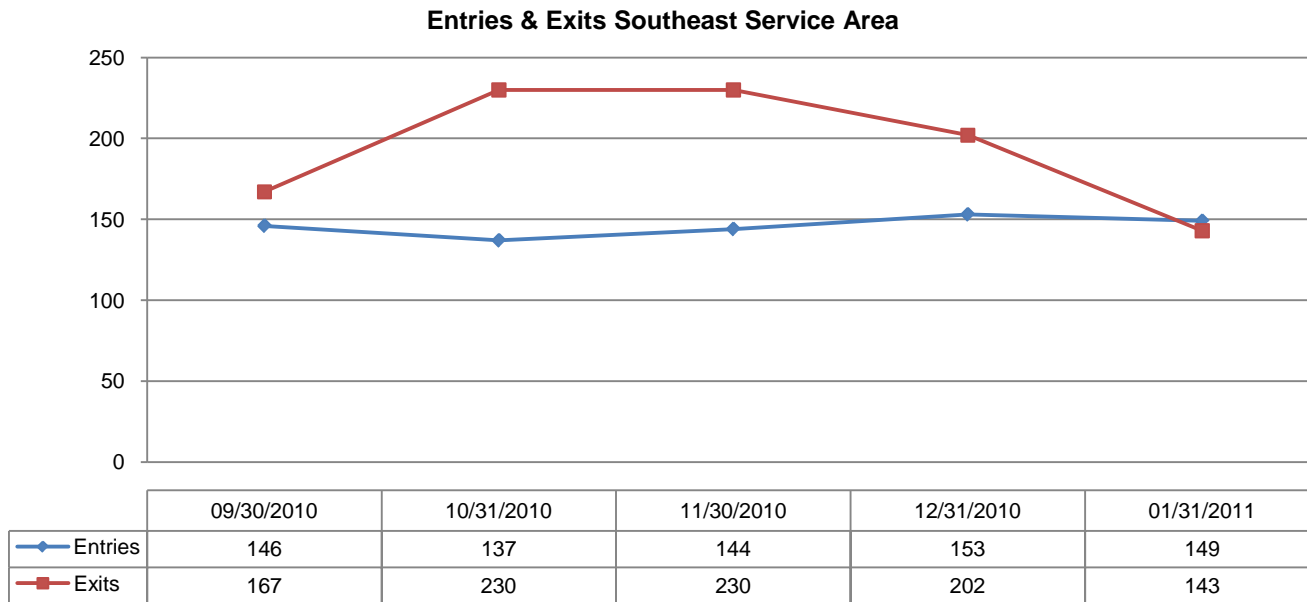
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Entries & Exits Nebraska Families Collaborative - ESA



	09/30/2010	10/31/2010	11/30/2010	12/31/2010	01/31/2011
Entries	65	78	62	69	68
Exits	44	57	66	84	57

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Children served in the Southeast Service Area are served by KVC .

The total number of children entering care in the Southeast Service Area has remained fairly consistent in the last five months. The number of exits increased significantly in October and November and then began to decrease in December and January.

Foster Care Reentry

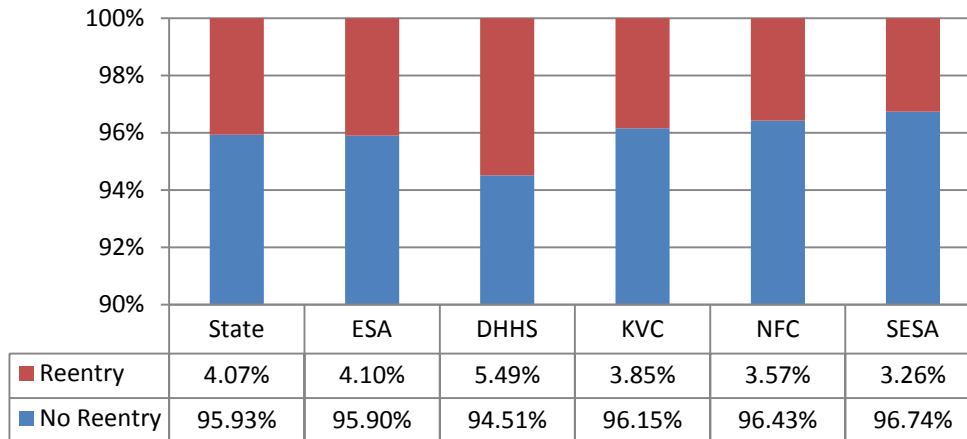
- Child safety and reentry into the child welfare system and juvenile justice system is constantly monitored. The Federal Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has established a federal measure of youth who re-entered foster care within 12 months of being discharged to reunification. Because of the measure's construction, it cannot accurately be used to measure the Families Matter contractors' performance until they have served Nebraska youth for two years. Thus, the federal measure cannot be used at this time. However, because DHHS needs to monitor reentry now, DHHS decided to instead look at youth exiting out-of-home care between April 1, 2010 and December 31, 2010 and see if the youth have reentered care during that period. April 1, 2010 was the date when all cases were transferred to the Families Matter contractors. The provision of after care, which began as a new service in November, 2009, is hoped to have a positive impact on reentry. In the future, DHHS will be reporting on reentry into the system for non-court involved children and state wards, which includes youth in both out-of-home and in-home care.

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Youth Who Exited Care and Then Reentered Care

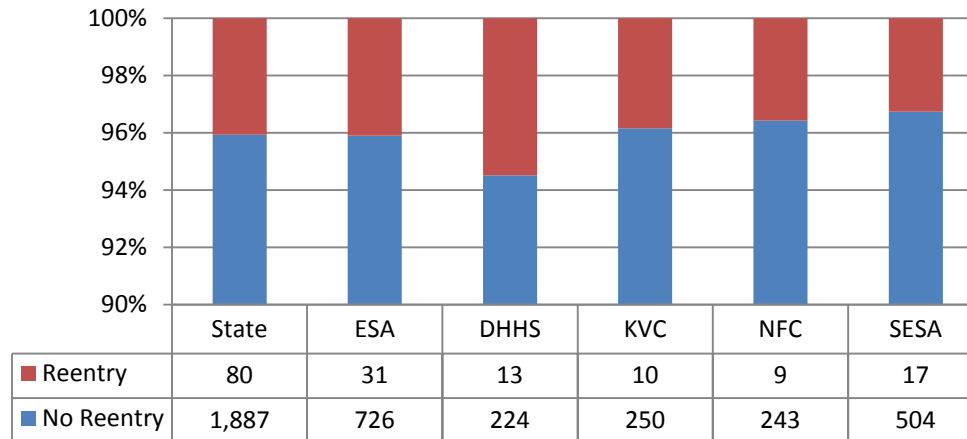
April 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010



The percent of youth reentering care in the Eastern Service Area is slightly higher than reentry throughout the state. Both contractors in the Eastern Service Area have a lower percent of youth reentering care than youth whose cases are currently being managed by DHHS.

Youth Who Exited Care and Then Reentered Care

April 1, 2010 to December 31, 2010



The percent of youth reentering care in the Southeast Service Area is lower than reentry throughout the state.

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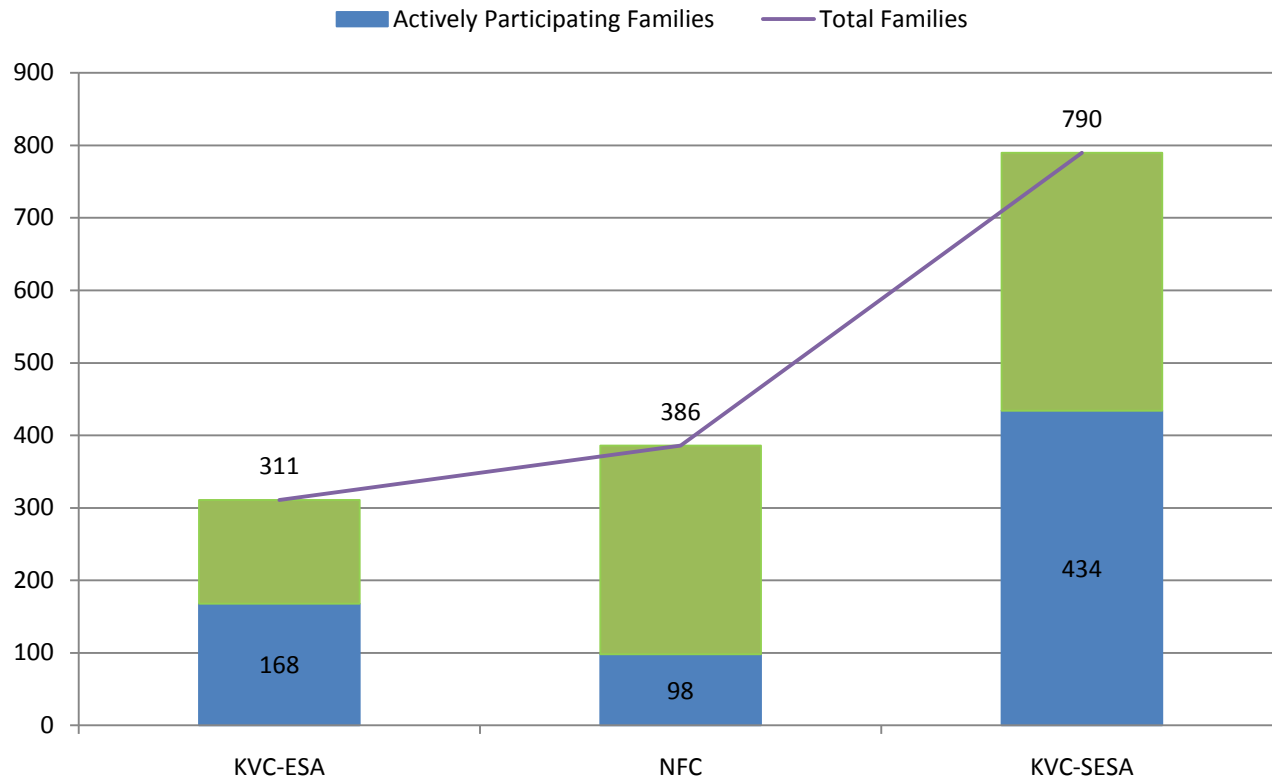
After Care

- After care services are provided and available to children and families once a determination is made that the children can remain safely in their own homes and communities after court systems and DHHS involvement ends. One of the goals of Families Matter is to ensure that children are cared for safely by their families whenever possible. After care is available to enable families to access immediate support and guidance when and if situations arise for which they need assistance to prevent reentry into the system and to reassure the family that they are on the right track.
- After care is not a service that has been available to families historically. Families Matter contractors and DHHS are now gathering baseline data to track the number of children and families eligible for and receiving aftercare. The data on aftercare services provided for the families served by DHHS in the Eastern Service Area is under construction.
- Families are defined as actively participating when they take advantage of and utilize the resources available to them that will support them in being successful.

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After Care



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Definitions

- **Children Served:** The total number of children under state care (e.g., ward and non-ward). This number excludes the number of children who are receiving safety assessment or evaluation services only.
- **Families Served:** The total number of families receiving services (e.g., court and non-court). This number excludes families who are receiving safety assessment or evaluation services only.
- **Living Arrangements:** The type of living arrangement in which children reside while under state care (e.g., in-home, out-of-home).
- **Out-of-State:** The total number of children whose living arrangement is outside of the state for various reasons (e.g., to receive a specific treatment, to reside closer to home or school, etc.). Only children residing in non-family-like placements are reported.
- **Safe in Foster Care:** The percent of children who do not experience any maltreatment while in care.
- **Foster Care Reentry:** The percent of children who were in out-of-home care and who reentered foster care within 12 months of being discharged and reunified with their families.
- **Entries & Exits:** The total number of children who enter and exit state care.
- **After Care:** A range of services provided by contractors to children and families who exit state care.

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